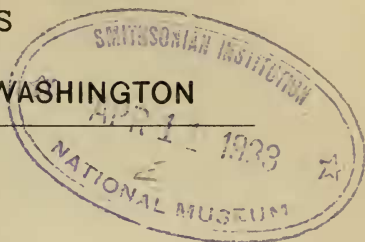


PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON



SOME NOTES ON RARE BIRDS OF THE  
WASHINGTON REGION.

BY W. HOWARD BALL.

The following specimens in the U. S. National Museum seem worthy of placing on record.

1. European Widgeon. *Mareca penelope* (Linnaeus). Brent M. Morgan took a female at Neabsco, Virginia, December 21, 1929. This is the fourth record for the region.

2. Long-billed Dowitcher. *Limnodromus griseus scolopaceus* (Say). An immature bird was taken by the writer on the mud flats off Hains Point, D. C., September 10, 1929. This form was determined by H. C. Oberholser and is the second record for the region.

3. Western Sandpiper, *Ereunetes maurii* Cabanis. In the latest summary of the birds of the D. C. area<sup>1</sup> Miss Cooke has this to say regarding *Ereunetes maurii*: "Accidental in fall migration, has been taken in three seasons." Since the appearance of her paper, the writer has accumulated data which would indicate that the Western Sandpiper is a not uncommon migrant in the fall. At the present time there are forty-four specimens known to the writer which have been taken locally. These were taken in ten different years, ranging from July 20, 1929 (Ball) at Chesapeake Beach, Maryland, to September 25, 1919 (2 specimens, National Museum) at Eastern Branch, D. C. The first specimen was taken by William Palmer at Four Mile Run, Virginia, September 8, 1894. There is one spring record, May 24, 1926 (Bartsch) taken on Columbia Island, D. C. R. B. Overington took one at Laurel, Maryland, August 4, 1903.

A careful check of the "Peeps" during the last five years by the writer showed that the Western Sandpiper varied in numbers from one to thirty-two, this latter number being present in a mixed flock of about 500, mostly *E. pusillus*, seen Aug. 1, 1930, at Alexander Island, Virginia. During the reclamation of Eastern Branch at Benning Bridge, D. C., *E. maurii* was present from July 20 until August 5, 1929, the flock running as high as eighteen birds, July 22. On the site of the Mt. Vernon Boulevard development at Arlington Beach, Virginia, twenty-five were seen July 25, 1930.

<sup>1</sup>M. T. Cooke, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., vol. 42, March 25, 1929, p. 30.

At Alexandria, Hunting Creek, Virginia, thirty were seen September 6-7, 1931, and on September 9, 1932, twelve were seen here.

4. Cairns's Warbler. *Dendroica caerulescens cairnsi* Coues. An adult male was taken by Edwin M. Hasbrouck at Washington, D. C., April 29, 1888. This is an unusually well marked bird, the patch on the back being almost solid black. Dr. H. Friedmann is responsible for bringing this to the attention of the writer. It is an addition to the local avifauna.